Apple II
Technical Notes

Developer Technical Support

Apple IIGS
#14:   Standard File Screwiness

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This Technical Note describes known anomalies in Standard File.
Changes since December 1991: Updated for System 6.0. Problems with the infinite loop and SFMultiGet2 reply record are fixed.

Prefix Check is Case Sensitive

When you advance to the next volume using Command-Tab (or just Tab, before 6.0), Standard File checks your prefix against the name of the volume now in the same device you were just using, to see if you switched disks (this is possible on a 5.25 drive, for example). If the name doesn't match, you stay at the same device.

Unfortunately, the comparison in 6.0 and earlier is case sensitive. If you have a volume called "MyDisk" and prefix zero is set to ":MYDISK", advancing to the next volume doesn't get you anywhere the first time (but the prefix changes from ":MYDISK" to ":MyDisk").

The following two problems are fixed in System 6.0:

Infinite Loop with Empty Prefixes

In System Software versions 5.0 through 5.0.4, all Standard File dialogs can hang if both prefixes 0 and 8 are empty (GS/OS uses prefix 8 to expand partial pathnames if prefix 0 is empty).

If this affects your software, use `GetPrefix` to check for empty prefixes before calling Standard File. If 0 and 8 are both empty, set prefix 0 to "`*:`" (or any other convenient pathname).

SFMultiGet2 (and SFPMultiGet2) reply record

`SFMultiGet2` and `SFPMultiGet2` in System 5.0.4 and earlier accidentally validate the multi-file reply record as if it were a regular new-style reply record (as for `SFGetFile2`, for example). The validation is a check that the words at offsets $08 and $0E in the record are not $0002 (these are `nameRefDesc` and `pathRefDesc` in a new-style reply record).

To ensure that Standard File does not erroneously reject your multi-file reply record (and return error $1704), you may include ten bytes of $00 following the six-byte record.

Further Reference

- *Apple IIGS Toolbox Reference*, Volumes 2 & 3